

Lawn Care

PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY FOR LAWNTHUSIASTS

T.M. REG

EARLIER STARTERS GET BETTER LAWNS

It's been a tough winter but the long-range weatherman promises an early spring. That is good news to those who are completely disgusted with fog and rain, ice and snow, and indoor confinement. They are reminded that early lawn activity provides a constructive reason for getting out-of-doors.

At the first peep of the crocus, or bloom of witch hazel or swelling of the pussy willow, it's time to get busy on the lawn. Some of the preliminaries can be gotten out of the way ahead of time, such as arranging soil tests.

Lawn Soil Tests May Be Helpful The need for a physical examination and chemical test of a lawn soil may be indicated if the lawn did not do well last year. The report may be to the effect that the soil is of poor texture and structure, that is, a heavy clay or the opposite extreme of a loose sand or gravel. This is worth knowing but to change the physical soil conditions in an established lawn is difficult except in a long range program.

In contrast if the laboratory reports the soil quite acid in reaction, it's easy to neutralize it by using lime (LAWN CARE 114). If lime is applied in late winter or early spring, freezing and thawing and the soaking of water into the ground will help carry the lime into the grass root zone.



Grass, Too, Likes Breakfast in Bed It isn't really coddling when you serve your lawn a square meal before it "gets up", that is before it begins active growth. If your choice of food is right, you'll be giving the grass two types of nutrients. One source of food will be water soluble, hence readily available. The other, being of organic origin, will release nutrients slowly.

Early feeding results in both sources of nutrients getting into the ground where

they will do the most good as the soil warms. Grass roots are said to have a short life, practically a complete cycle of new growth each year if conditions are favorable. Most significant is that the greatest root growth takes place in spring and early summer. Thus early feeding is important to promote new and deep rooting.

Good Seed Is Not Harmed by Freezing

The danger of cold weather, snow or ice is no deterrent to early seeding. To the contrary, alternate freezing and thawing, melting snow or soaking rain help bury the seed. An exception is slopes where the seed may be washed away before it can find its way into one of the many little soil cracks.

Good seed may seem costly per pound but actually it need not be expensive per lawn. Most folks sow too much because of the mistaken idea

that a heavy seeding will offset poor growing conditions. Any lawn with a fair turf needs only a light over-seeding. If the lawn has been taken over by Crabgrass, then a heavier rate, more like a new lawn, may be needed.

Do You Have Moles? When moles tunnel close to the surface they are looking for food, usually luscious white grubs. If the food source is eliminated, moles must feed some other place or work so deep in the ground they do not harm the lawn.

Along the Eastern Seaboard, westward into Ohio, in scattered areas such as Detroit, Indianapolis and St. Louis, there is need to be alert for the ravages of the Jap beetle grubs. They chew off grass roots in addition to acting as source of food for moles. The larvae of May beetles or June bugs, found also in other parts of the country, may also attack grass and attract moles.

Is There Debris That Should Be Cleared Off? Probably the clean-up is better done before seeding but it makes little difference regarding application of lime, fertilizer or pest control. In many ways the broom-type rake is better because it uproots fewer plants. Most important is removal of matted leaves that smother the grass and prevent contact of seed with the soil. There is no need to rake severely to loosen the soil except in bare spots.

Some give lawns vigorous rakings to "get rid of the Crabgrass". They are too late because Crabgrass seeds dropped to the ground last fall. Unless topdressing soil is to be applied, the dead Crabgrass plants may be helpful in protecting seedling grass.

Lawn Rolling Can Be Harmful Many folks use heavy rollers to flatten high places in the lawn. This may not be damaging in sandy or light soils but loam and clay soils are harmed by such practice. Unless the soil is quite dry the rolling will do harm by puddling and compacting the soil. Never roll when the soil is so wet you leave footprints and water oozes into them.

It is all right to use a light roller to firm frost-heaved grass roots back into the soil.

Rolling is of little use in pressing seed into the soil of established lawns because the turf keeps a roller of the proper weight away from soil contact. It is, however, advisable to make a light rolling after seeding of newly prepared ground to press soil around the seed to hasten germination.

The next issue of Lawn Care will discuss the late spring program and review the latest data on weed control.

Sirs:

According to the New York Times, the good folks of Dayton threw a big party for their illustrious citizen, Charles F Kettering, on his 75th birthday.

Mr Kettering spoke feelingly of his optimism for the future and the challenge to be met by science in tapping new sources of energy. One question he put, "*What Makes Grass Green?*" is easily answered by my experience, "*Feed With Turf Builder*".

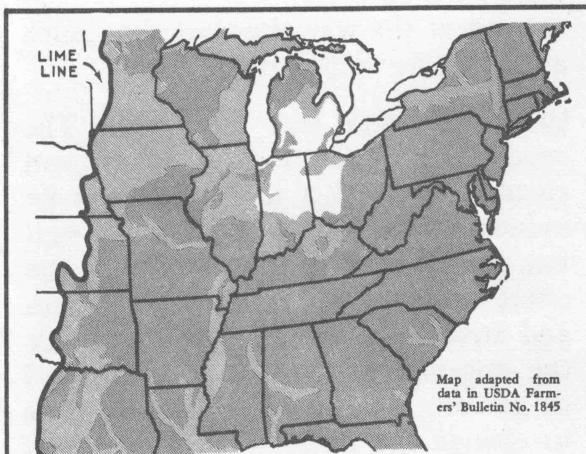
New York City

A DICKINSON

¶ Next Question?—ED.

PECONIC BAY, Attractive bay-front bungalow, summer rental, 3 bedrooms; beach, Scotts Lawn. Mattituck 8481. (Advt)

¶ A real punch line—ED.



LIME MAP. A general guide subject to local variations. See *Lawn Care* 114.

DARK GRAY — Lime probably needed every few years

LIGHT GRAY — Soils mostly of lime derivation not likely to need lime but should be tested occasionally unless watered regularly with "hard" water

WHITE, also west of Lime Line — Doubtful if lime needed unless woods earth, peat or muck added in large amounts

Which Scotts For Your Lawn?

Two blends of grass seed carry the Scotts trade-mark. The one has been known for over thirty years simply as "Scotts Lawn Seed". The other brand has been called "Special Purpose" but that designation is presently being shortened to "Special".

In good times and bad, the goal has been to furnish blends of the best grass varieties in a quality as nearly perfect as humanly possible. To accomplish this, we are always in touch with the best seed producing areas in the USA, Canada, Denmark and New Zealand. The seed accumulated in these many places is brought to Marysville for cleaning, recleaning, testing and blending for positive quality control.

To help guide those who may be uncertain whether to plant Scotts Lawn Seed or "Special," it may be pointed out that Scotts Lawn Seed is to be used where a really *deluxe* lawn is desired. Fortunately most soils support such a lawn if moisture supply is reasonable and if the grass is fed two or three times a year. Lime may be needed.

A deluxe lawn takes so little more care than an ordinary one and hardly anything about the home gives such delight as sparkling green grass, thick and velvety.

Not everyone is so fortunate as to have even fair soil. If growing conditions are not so good, the "Special" blend may well be selected. This seed grows faster and may be preferred for late spring plantings of new lawns. The grasses are somewhat coarser and more rugged. Some prefer to use the genuine Scotts in their front lawns and "Special" in their back lawn. "Special" is made up of grasses having larger seeds so it is necessary to plant it heavier than Scotts Lawn Seed. Thus the cost is about the same either way.

Grass In Shade The problem of growing grass in situations of reduced sunlight is not solved by sowing a so-called shady place mixture. Failures in the

shade are more likely due to poor growing conditions and lack of proper maintenance rather than the grasses used. Desirable grass varieties such as Kentucky Bluegrass, Bentgrass and Fescues will thrive in spite of reduced sunlight. As a matter of fact, moderate shade is more favorable than the intense summer sun. Grass under trees needs extra feeding (and extra watering in mid-summer) because of tree root competition. When the trees are in full leaf, mowing should be extra high, 2 inches or more if possible. In extreme conditions, a substantial thinning out will occur each year because of softer growth and the havoc of matted leaves.

New Grass Varieties

Sirs:

I do not see anything in your price list or literature about B-27 Bluegrass or Merion Bluegrass. Do you have these seeds?

H LEDERMAN

Chicago, Ill

¶ Yes, for experimental planting (see *Lawn Care No 109, February 1950 "Dream Grasses in the News"*). There was not then and is not now sufficient seed production to be of consequence for commercial sale. Only a few farmers are growing it for seed.

It is anyone's guess as to whether there will be seed available for fall planting. If there is, the quantity will be small and the price high, probably \$3.50 or \$4.00 per pound. If any *Lawn Care* readers wish to order now for later delivery, we will be glad to record their desires and notify them if and when.

Lest anyone expect too much, we advise that in our plantings and four-year observations of B-27 or Merion Bluegrass, we have not found it able to rout Crabgrass, nor does it come up quicker or require less frequent mowing. In good soils and with proper management, B-27 does make wonderfully thick turf of dark green color, resistant to the ravages of *Helminthosporium* (leaf spot) disease.

There seems little benefit in planting Merion Bluegrass into established turf. Furthermore it has questionable value as part of a lawn seed mixture unless it is the predominating variety by weight and pure live seed count.—ED.



THINGS TO COME



Effect of Krilium application after a new seeding, Right, treated; Left, untreated.

The Monsanto Chemical Company has recently lifted the wraps of secrecy on a new and startling soil conditioning material.

Experimental quantities were made available for trials in the Scotts LAWN Research plots. It is too early to predict how this material can best be used on lawns but as the pictures indicate, Krilium was quite a help in getting a solid stand of grass in a hurry on heavy clay soil. The action of

Krilium is to stabilize the soil surface, reduce crusting and conserve moisture.

There is good evidence that Krilium will have important uses in preventing the washing out of new seedings on slopes. It also improves soil aeration and moisture retention by causing changes in the structure of soil particles.

Krilium is another chemical that looks promising but it will not be commercially available before 1953.

Lawn Work Is Simplified With A Spreader

If you own a Scotts Spreader, this is a good time to put it into tip-top shape or have that done by a handy man or mechanic. Write for the Spreader Service Manual.

A Spreader has many uses. It is quickly adjusted to apply the proper rates of Seed, Turf Builder, Pest Control. It is used to apply modern chemical controls for weeds and Crabgrass. Coarse lime may be distributed if extra agitation is provided as suggested in Lawn Care 114.

As the Spreader is used, overlap slightly, as you would with a lawn mower, to insure complete coverage. If wheel tracks are difficult to follow, place a marker on the ground as a guide for the next trip. Be sure to shut

off spreader as you turn around. Many are surprised to learn they can treat 10,000 sq ft of lawn in a couple of hours with the help of the two-wheeled Spreader.

Sirs:

The officials of one of our Canadian motor plants were disturbed because their lawns were brown just when they most wanted them green—in anticipation of the Windsor visit of the Royal couple, Prince Phillip and Princess Elizabeth. We recommended and supervised the application of Turf Builder. The change from brown to sparkling green was in the nick of time . . . gave those lawns rave notices.

Windsor, Ontario COCK BROS LTD

Sirs:

Your Pest Control has rid my lawn of Moles, Ants and Mole Crickets. If the lawn is treated the first thing in the spring, a little spot-treating from time to time will also keep out other obnoxious insects.

PAUL F YOUNG

North Charleston, S C

O M SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE -- OHIO

EVERY PACKAGE OF SCOTTS LAWN CARE PRODUCTS BEARS THIS TRADE-MARK AND IS SEALED FOR YOUR PROTECTION